

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-12 are pending in this application.

Favorable consideration is requested.

The claims have been amended to address the formalities objections and by using the helpful suggestions of the Examiner. To better define the invention, claim 12 replaces claim 1 and is supported by original claim 1 and the specification, e.g., the numbered figures and corresponding disclosure. No new matter has been added.

Turning to the specific objections and rejections, claims 1-11 stand objected to because of various informalities. In line with the helpful comments and suggestions of the Examiner, the claims have been amended, which are believed to render moot the objections.

Claims 1-4 and 7-11 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Fluent (USP 4223674), and claims 5-6 stand rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Fluent in view of Fucci (USP 5607432). Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of these rejections in view of the claim amendments and the following distinguishing remarks.

The claimed invention requires at least the following features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art:

- device gripping means, and
- rotary element holds a plurality of tubular elements.

As shown in the application, the "device gripping means" applies to the device as a whole. Thus, it is not related to the rotary element. The application's description and figures unambiguously support this position and the claimed distinguishing feature. In other words, the applicant claims a "device gripping means" in contrast to what the Office Action refers to as a "rotary element gripping means."

In contrast to the claimed invention, Fluent discloses a handle as a "device gripping means," and Fluent discloses as a separate component a "rotary element gripping means." In the claimed invention, the "device gripping means" is not a handle – as disclosed and taught in Fluent.

Another major distinction between the claimed invention and anything disclosed or suggested in the prior art relates to the tubular elements. As claimed, the rotary element holds a plurality of tubular elements. Thus, the tubular elements are in or within the rotary element; they are not merged with it. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

Indeed, the claimed tubular elements are comprised/fixed in the rotary element. This is not the case with the devices disclosed or suggested in Fluent, which actually show only one tubular element and this element is outside Fluent's rotary element. Furthermore, this later one only contains a plurality of longitudinal cavities which, by no means, can be viewed as tubes. A tube is a cylindrical object with a relatively thin wall. The longitudinal cavities of Fluent do not have thin walls.

The secondary reference, Fucci, does not disclose or suggest the claimed features or overcome the deficiencies of Fluent in any reasonable combination.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited art.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits a notice to that effect. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case or would like to discuss it over the phone, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

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Respectfully submitted,

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